MOHAN) : Price revisions of price controlled drugs/formulations are approved as per the provisions of DPCO, 1987, on the basis of recommendations of BICP, and after careful scrutiny by the Government. In case of formulations outside price control as and when any unreasonable price increase is noticed, Government intervenes and prevails upon the company to bring it to a reasonable level. With this approach, overall availability of drugs at reasonable prices has been ensured.

Recommendation of Bhosale Committee for reduction in subsidy on fertilizers

523. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the subsidy on fertilizer has ben abolished;

(b) the extent to which the subsidy has been reduced as per the recommendation of the Bhosale Committee; and

(c) what amount of subsidy still continues on fertilizer ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) to (c) On the basis of the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Fertilizer Pricing, the price of Urea has been reduced by 10% and low analysis fertilizers, namely, Ammonium Chloride, Ammonium Sulphate and Calcium Ammonium Nitrate have been brought back under subsidy scheme, w.e.f. 25th August, 1992. Further, based on the recommendations of the said Committee all phosphatic and potassic fertilizers have been removed from the price and movement control w.e.f. 25th August, 1992. However, the total subsidy liability would be higher during the current year as compared to the last year.

Bifurcation of Namrup Fertilizer Unit

524. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to bifurcate the Namrup Fertilizer Unit and to convert the same into idependent company; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be bifurcated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) The Namrup Fertilizer Shramik Union, All Assam Students Union and Namrup Rajohua Pratisthan Sangrakshan Samitee (a joint forum of 14 organisations including trade unions and the people of Assam) have submitted a memorandum to the Government, which among others, include a proposal for the bifurcation of Namrup units to form a separate company.

(b) No decision has been taken by the Government.

525. [*Transfered to the 4th December, 1992*]

Price decontrol of Glybenclamide

526. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1133 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th May, 1992 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Glybenclamide did not fulfil any of the five exclusion criteria as laid down by the Kelkar Committee;

(b) whether these five criteria were accepted by Government and if so, the reasons for price decontrolling of Glybenclamide;

(c) what were the considerations based on which Glybenclamide price was decontrolled and the company allowed to jack up the price by Rs. 6.74 or 10x10's pack.

(d) whether it is a fact that diabetic patients were overcharged by Rs. 13.48 per gm; and

(e) what steps have been taken to investigate the matter and fix responsibility.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) to (e) Glybenclamide has been price decontrolled on the specific recommendations made by the Kelkar Committee in its supplementary report.